

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07737 111405Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 USIA-06 SIL-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CAB-02

DOTE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 NEAE-00 /069 W

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P R 111345Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2921

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IR

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BELL HELICOPTER IRAN SITUATION

REFS: A. TEHRAN 7501 B. STATE 184681

1. FOLLOWING RETURN TO WORK ON AUGUST 3 OF MEMBERS OF PILOT ASSOCIATION, ASSOCIATION PRESENTED THREE POINT DEMAND FOR RECOGNITION, IMMEDIATE RAISE IN PAY, AND COMPANY AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH ASSOCIATION ON NUMEROUS OTHER GRIEVANCES. ASSOCIATION GAVE MANAGEMENT 72 HOURS TO RESPOND. ON AUGUST 6 AT NOON COMPANY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED MEETING WOULD BE HELD 10 AUGUST FOR ALL PILOTS TO HEAR ROBERT WILLIAMS, BELL HELICOPTER INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT. IN MEANTIME, MOST ASSOCIATION PILOTS WENT ON ANOTHER "SICK OUT" ON AUGUST 9 WHICH CONTINUES AS OF THIS MOMENT. BY COMPANY DIRECTIVE, NO FLIGHTS ARE SCHEDULED AUGUST 11 OR 12.

2. ON AUGUST 10 MR. WILLIAMS TOLD ATTENDING NON-ASSOCIATION AND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION PILOTS THAT COMPANY WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE ASSOCIATION, EXPLAINING

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 07737 111405Z

THAT COMPANY OFFICIALLY INFORMED THAT IT WAS CONTRARY

TO GOVERNMENT OF IRAN POLICY THAT FOREIGN UNIONS SHOULD OPERATE IN IRAN. WILLIAMS ALSO GAVE PILOTS UNTIL 0800 FOLLOWING MORNING TO REPORT BACK TO WORK OR FACE DISMISSAL. LATER THAT NIGHT, WILLIAMS AGREED TO EXTEND THIS DEADLINE UNTIL 12 AUGUST 11, LATER EXTENDED AGAIN, APPARENTLY FOR LAST TIME, UNTIL 0800 AUGUST 12.

3. MR. WILLIAMS INFORMED EMBASSY ON AUGUST 9 THAT AT MEETING THAT MORNING WITH GENERAL TOUFANIAN, LATTER HAD SAID THAT HE HAD BRIEFED THE SHAH ON THE SITUATION AND AS RESULT COULD SAY THAT NO FOREIGN UNIONS WOULD BE PERMITTED IN IRAN. TOUFANIAN ALSO INDICATED THAT IF REPLACEMENT OF DISSIDENT PILOTS WITH OTHERS SHOULD CAUSE DELAY IN CONTRACT PERFORMANCE, GOI WOULD BE UNDERSTANDING. IT WAS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT WILLIAMS CITED "OFFICIAL ADVISEMENT" AT 10 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING. HE LATER TOLD PILOTS THAT ADVISEMENT WAS TOUFANIAN'S. PILOT ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES IN MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICER ON AUGUST 11 IN TEHRAN QUESTIONED TOUFANIAN'S AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUCH POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS AND WERE TOLD THAT ALTHOUGH EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT TOUFANIAN WAS ACCURATELY QUOTED, PILOTS COULD, IF THEY WISHED CONFIRMATION, CONTACT TOUFANIAN OR OTHER GOI OFFICIALS IF THEY SO DESIRED.

4. EMBASSY CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN NEUTRAL STANCE
ENDORSED REF B.

5. INQUIRIES BEGINNING TO BE MADE OF BELL AND EMBASSY BY CORRESPONDENTS FOR US MEDIA INCLUDING NBC, NEWSWEEK, AND WASHINGTON POST. BELL AS OF TODAY MAINTAINING NO COMMENT POLICY. EMBASSY RESPONDING THIS IS COMPANY MATTER WHICH EMBASSY FOLLOWING BUT IN WHICH IT NOT INVOLVED.
HELMs

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